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PATENT
246472003920

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Helmut D. LINK et al.

Serial No.: 10/731,432

Filing Date: December 10, 2003

For: INSTRUMENT SET FOR FITTING AN
INTERVERTEBRAL JOINT
PROSTHESIS

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Confirmation No.: 5128

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 & 1.98**

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicants submit for consideration in the above-identified application the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a/b. Copies of the foreign documents are also submitted herewith. The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record.

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.

Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO/SB/08a/b, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

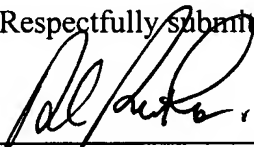
The information contained in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief (such as payment of a fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p)) is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing 246472003920.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 10, 2006

By:



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Substitute for form 1449/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	10/731,432
				Filing Date	December 10, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Helmut D. Link
				Art Unit	Not yet assigned
				Examiner Name	Not yet assigned
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	246472003920

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	1.	4,289,123	9/1981	Dunn	
	2.	4,672,957	6/1987	Hourahane	
	3.	4,820,305	4/1989	Harms et al.	
	4.	4,892,545	1/1990	Day et al.	
	5.	4,936,848	6/1990	Bagby	
	6.	5,059,194	10/1991	Michelson	
	7.	5,397,364	3/1995	Kozak et al.	
	8.	5,484,437	1/16/1996	Michelson	
	9.	5,534,005	7/1996	Tokish et al.	
	10.	5,591,235	1/1997	Kuslich	
	11.	5,735,856	4/1998	McCue et al.	
	12.	5,772,661	6/30/1998	Michelson	
	13.	5,797,909	8/25/1998	Michelson	
	14.	6,080,155	6/27/2000	Michelson	
	15.	6,083,228	7/4/2000	Michelson	
	16.	6,096,038	8/1/2000	Michelson	
	17.	6,224,599	5/1/2001	Baynham et al.	
	18.	6,224,607	5/1/2001	Michelson	
	19.	2001/0010002	7/2001	Michelson	
	20.	2001/0010001	7/26/2001	Michelson	
	21.	6,270,498	8/7/2001	Michelson	
	22.	2002/0091390	7/11/2002	Michelson	
	23.	2002/0091392	7/11/2002	Michelson	
	24.	6,440,139	8/27/2002	Michelson	
	25.	6,447,512	9/10/2002	Landry et al.	
	26.	6,447,545	9/10/2002	Bagby	
	27.	2002/0138079	9/26/2002	Cohen	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	† ²
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	28.	WO 00/53127-A1	9/14/2000	Sulzer Spine-Tech Inc.		
	29.	WO 01/49188-A1	7/12/2001	Spinal Concepts, Inc.		
	30.	DE 201 10 393-U1	9/27/2001	Allocon GMBH	translation of abstract only	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO				Complete if Known	
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Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	246472003920

31.	DE 201 10 402-U1	9/27/2001	Allocon GMBH	translation of abstract only	
32.	DE 102 26 496	1/16/2003	Allocon GMBH	translation of abstract only	

*EXAMINER: Initial if information considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.		T ²

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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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